

Message Text

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42

ACTION AID-59

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----- 019493

R 251240Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7981

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0295

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN, EAID, CN, US

SUBJECT: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) AND CHURCH WORLD
SERVICE (CWS) PLAN TO AID COMOROS

REF: (A) TANA 0133 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 030280 (NOTAL)

1. CRS AND CWS REPS IN TANANARIVE INFORMED EMBOFFS FEB. 20
OF RESULTS OF THEIR WEEK-LONG JOINT TRIP TO COMOROS FEB. 10-17.
BOTH SAID THAT THEY WERE TREATED WITH GREAT HOSPITALITY BY ALL
COMORIAN OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY PRIME MINISTER WHO SPENT CON-
SIDERABLE TIME WITH THEM.

2. AT PRESENT, ACCORDING BOTH REPS, UNDP IS VIRTUALLY RUNNING
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH ABOUT 30 TECHNICIANS AND ARAB
LEAGUE HAS SUPPLIED HALF MILLION DOLLARS FOR OFFICIAL SALARIES
FOR ONE MONTH. FROM CRS AND CWS COMORIANS WANT HELP FOR
HOSPITALS, MEDICINES, A PRE-SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM, SMALL AGRI-
CULTURAL PROJECTS, AND HAND TOOLS FOR AGRICULTURAL. COMORIANS
HAVE PROMISED FULL SUPPORT FOR CRS AND CWS PROGRAMS SUCH AS
DUTY-FREE ENTRY AND HOUSING.

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3. BOTH ORGANIZATIONS ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING COMORIAN

REQUESTS. AT LEAST CRS WOULD LIKE TO AVAIL ITSELF
OF PL-480 SUPPLIES, AS MENTIONED REF (A), FOR
WHICH IT WILL SUBMIT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE AID HANDBOOK 9.
HEAD OF CWS/NEW YORK WILL BE VISITING TANANARIVE NEXT
WEEK AND IS EXPECTED TO MAKE MORE OR LESS FINAL DECISION
ON CWS AID AT THAT TIME.

4. ACCORDING TO CRS AND CWS REPS, COMORIANS WOULD
PREFER AID FIRST FROM MUSLIM COUNTRIES, THEN MADAGASCAR
(WHOSE RESOURCES ARE LIMITED), THEN THE WEST (SWEDEN, UK,
CANADA AND U.S. WERE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED), THEN OTHERS.
PRIME MINISTER TOLD THEM THAT THEY DID NOT WANT "CONDITIONAL
AID" AND THEREFORE HAD NOT ASKED SOVIETS OR EES. GDR
FIRST SECRETARY FROM DAR WAS IN COMOROS, AT SAME TIME AS
CRS/CWS REPS, FOR SIGNING OF DIPLOMATIC AGREEMENT AND
CONFIRMED TO CRS/CWS REPS THAT EAST GERMANS HAD NOT BEEN
ASKED FOR AID.

5. FOOD SUPPLY APPEARS TO BE SATISFACTORY FOR TIME BEING,
ALTHOUGH NOT IN GREAT QUANTITIES OR VARIETIES.
SHEINBAUM

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